

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 19265 190649Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04
OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-05 CEA-01 L-03 /106 W
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R 181934Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO AMEMBASSY BANJUL
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3271
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS BONN 19265

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, GA, SG
SUBJ: BARRAGE ACROSS THE GAMBIA RIVER

REF: BANJUL 1604

1. IN DISCUSSION OF REFTTEL WITH SCHMID OF FRG
MINECON COOPERATION, HE CLARIFIED THAT UA 8 MILLION
GRANTED BY EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF) WAS FOR
BRIDGE PROJECT RATHER THAN PONT/BARRAGE PROJECT.
IN ADDITION, PRESIDENT SENGHOR, DURING HIS RECENT
TRIP TO GERMANY, ASKED FRG TO CONSIDER FINANCING
SAME BRIDGE PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF DM 51 MILLION.
NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AT THE TIME OF SENGHOR'S
VISIT; HOWEVER, THE FRG MIN ECON COOPERATION HAS
MANAGED TO FIND WITHIN ITS REGIONAL FUNDS FOR 1978,
THE AMOUNT OF DM 30 MILLION WHICH IT WAS GOING TO
EARMARK FOR THE PROJECT OF A BRIDGE ACROSS THE GAMBIA
RIVER.

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2. SCHMID REPORTED THAT APPROXIMATELY 10 DAYS AGO
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS NOT
IN AGREEMENT WITH THE BUILDING OF JUST A BRIDGE, BUT
RATHER PREFERRED THE PONT/BARRAGE PROJECT. SCHMID
SAID THAT FRG UNDERSTANDS FROM REPORTS FROM DAKAR
THAT SENEGAL IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING

EXTENSION OF ROADS AROUND THE GAMBIA TO TAMBAKUNDA
AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO BUILDING THE BRIDGE.

3. SCHMID SAID THAT, ACCORDING TO ESTIMATES HE HAS
RECEIVED, THE TOTAL COST OF PONT/BARRAGE PROJECT WOULD
BE DM 150 MILLION. HE BELIEVES THAT, SHOULD SENEGAL
AND THE GAMBIA FINALLY AGREE ON PONT/BARRAGE PROJECT,
ONLY POSSIBLE MEANS OF FINANCING WOULD BE IF UK
JOINED WITH US IN FINANCING OUTSTANDING AMOUNTS.
SCHMID WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT UK
HAD ALREADY EARMARKED ALL ITS FUNDS FOR THE GAMBIA
THROUGH 1980. HENCE, THE NECESSITY FOR SENEGAL TO
AGREE TO THE PONT/BARRAGE PROJECT RATHER THAN LEAVING
THE PROJECT AS A STRICTLY GAMBIAN ENTERPRISE.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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